MASKED RAIDER

MASKED RAIDER presents THE BILLY KID WESTERN OUTLAW

No 7

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

10¢

A CHARLTON PUBLICATION

Boys! Girls! Men! Women!

Do You Want up to $50.00 or $100.00 Extra Money?

$ HERE'S QUICK EASY WAY TO EARN IT! $

Send No Money—Merely Mail Coupon

We Ship You 24 Beautiful Super Size Religious Wall Mottoes

ON CREDIT! Friends, Neighbors and Others Buy on Sight!

Serve the Lord while you earn extra cash...up to $50 to $100! Just mail the coupon below with your name and address—SEND NO MONEY—and the FUNman will ship to you POSTPAID and ON CREDIT 24 extra large richly decorated Religious Wall Mottoes. These gorgeous, inspiring mottoes sell amazingly fast at just 35c each. Your friends, neighbors and other folks buy on sight; many take six or more for every room in the house. Many boys and girls, men and women sell out all 24 mottoes in a few hours and make $2.40 for themselves in a hurry.

HERE'S HOW YOU EARN MONEY FAST

When you have sold all 24 mottoes, you will have collected $8.40 altogether. Merely send $6.00 to the FUNman in payment for the mottoes and keep all the rest of the $2.40 for yourself. You can probably sell out in a single afternoon...and that means you can make the full $2.40 profit after school or on a Saturday. If you prefer you can earn exciting prizes like those shown below. Help our Lord crush graft, sin, greed and evil thinking...and earn welcome extra cash or prizes. Rush Coupon TODAY!

OR YOUR CHOICE OF PRIZES GIVEN

The FUNman, Dept. X-109, 5726 N. Broadway, Chicago 40, Ill.

FREE BIG PRIZE CATALOG

Please rush to me on 15 days credit 24 Religious Wall Mottos, to sell at 35c each. Also include big Prize Catalog FREE. I will remit amount required as explained under description of prize in BIG PRIZE CATALOG within 15 days and select the prize I want or keep a cash commission as explained.

NAME ..... AGE .....

STREET or RFD .....

TOWN ..... Zone ..... STATE .....

FREE Membership in FUNman's Fun Club

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HERE'S HOW YOU GET YOUR PRIZES

Rush your name and address on coupon and we ship AT ONCE PREPAID your first set of 24 big size richly decorated Mottos. On 15 Days TRUST. When you have sold the 24 Mottos, send the $8.40 you have collected and you can secure your choice of many wonderful prizes. Hurry, send TODAY for 24 Mottos ON TRUST and big PRIZE CATALOG FREE!

SEND NO MONEY!...We Trust You!

The FUNman, Dept. X-109, 5726 N. Broadway, Chicago 40, Illinois

MASKED RAIDER Volume 1, Number 7 MAY, 1957

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Al Fago, Executive Editor.

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

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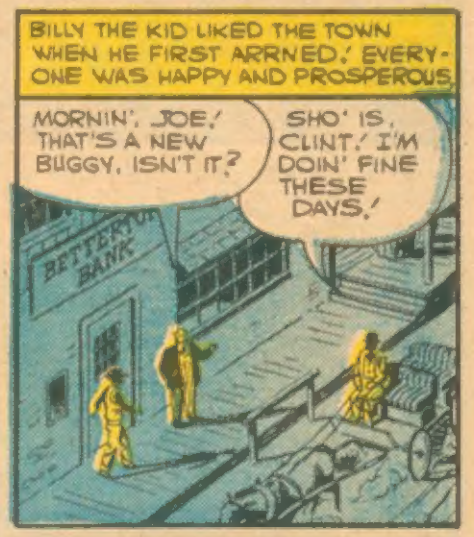
Alfred M. Fago Executive Editor

BILLY THE KID

in BOOM OR BUST

AFTER YEARS OF FIGHTING INDIANS AND OUTLAWS AND THE WEATHER, IT LOOKED LIKE HAPPY DAYS AHEAD FOR BETTERTON! THE RAILROAD WAS COMING AND THE LAND WAS BOOMING! THEN, THE BUBBLE BURST... THE RAILROAD CANCELLED ITS PLANS AND THE OUTLAWS RETURNED! THE ENTIRE FUTURE OF THE TOWN RODE ON ONE MAN'S SHOULDERS, BILLY THE KID!


BILLY THE KID LIKED THE TOWN WHEN HE FIRST ARRIVED! EVERYONE WAS HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS
MORNIN', JOE! THAT'S A NEW BUGGY, ISN'T IT?
SHO' IS, CLINT! I'M DOIN' FINE THESE DAYS!
BETTERTON BANK

TOWN'S DOIN' RIGHT WELL, MR. HUDKINS! I WAS THINKIN' OF SETTLIN' DOWN HERE!
WELL, THINK AGAIN! LAND'S HIGH AN' WE DON'T WANT ANY SADDLE TRAMP FOR A NEIGHBOR!

MASKED RAIDER

BILL BONNEY KEPT HIS TEMPER IN CHECK.' HE DISLIKED HUDKINS BUT HE WANTED TO BE PEACEABLE IN THE NEW TOWN...
WHAT'LL IT BE, SONNY? SODA POP?
THAT'S RIGHT.' AND DON'T CALL ME SONNY OR I'LL GIT MAD.'
LISTEN, SONNY, I... YEOOW.'
RUBE'S BEEN NEEDIN' A COMEDOWN, MISTER.'
TOWN LOOKS GOOD.' WHY ALL THE SMILES?
THE LEAN DAYS ARE OVER, STRANGER.' THE RAILROAD'S BUILDING THROUGH HERE.' LAND'S GOIN' SKY HIGH.'
HEY.' A MESSENGER JUST GOT IN FROM PHOENIX.' HE'S GOT NEWS ABOUT THE RAILROAD.'
BAD NEWS, FOLKS.' THE RAILROAD CANCELLED THE PLAN TUH BUILD THROUGH HERE.' IT'S GOIN' FURTHER NORTH.'
I'M RUINED.'
CALICO BAR
THE NEWS HIT WITH SICKENING IMPACT.' WITHIN MINUTES, LAND PRICES WERE A SMALL FRACTION OF WHAT THEY'D BEEN... THEN...
I'VE SEEN THAT RANNY BEFORE.' I WANT ANOTHER LOOK AT HIM.'
BANK

MASKED RAIDER

THEY ATE IT UP, CLINT! ANY MORE ORDERS?
NO! RIDE OUT AND TELL LINK TO KEEP THE BOYS READY!
HERE'S A HUNDRED FOR... WHAT DO YOU WANT?
DOESN'T THE RAILROAD PAY ITS HELP, HUDKINS...
...OR DOESN'T THIS GUY WORK FOR THE RAILROAD AT ALL?
GET 'IM! IF HE TALKS, WE'RE SUNK! HELP! HOLD-UP!
I'LL GET...
JUST A...
SORRY, BUD! I AIN'T GOT TIME TO EXPLAIN!
SECONDS LATER, BILLY THE KID WAS RIDING FOR THE BRUSH! A HAIL OF BULLETS SINGING IN HIS EAR...
THE CITIZENS ARE SHORE INDIGNANT! CAN'T SHOOT AT THEM!

Boys! Girls! Men! Women!

We'll Send You These 2 Boxes of Sensational New First-Time Ideas in

GREETING CARDS

and Show You How to Make

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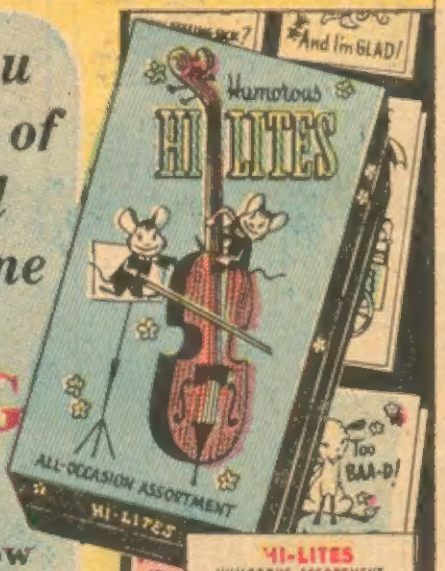
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The modern way to buy Greeting Cards—18 exquisite designs in 3 most popular shapes—all 3 shapes in one assortment—all embellished with "jewels", flocking, bronzing, embossing.

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Be First! Mail Coupon Today!

See for yourself! Don't send a penny. Mail coupon for the 2 assortments shown here, sent you on approval, all postage paid. We'll include FREE Illustrated Catalog and details of our amazingly simple Money-Making Plan. Mail the coupon TODAY!

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SEND NO MONEY Paste Coupon on postcard or mail in envelope

Wallace Brown, Inc., Dept. A-123,
11 East 26th St., New York 10, N. Y.

I want to make extra money. Please send me on approval the 2 Greeting Card Assortments shown above, plus FREE Illustrated Catalog and Money-Making Plan.

Name .....

Address .....

City ..... State .....

If writing for an organization, give its name .....

MASKED RAIDER

WHOA, SONNY! WHERE YUH HEADED?
I'M JUST MAKIN' MYSELF SCARCE. I'M REAL UNPOPULAR IN BETTERTON.
WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
I GOT ORDERS TUH BRING ANY SNOOPERS IN. LINK WARREN'LL TELL YUH THE REST.
WHO'S THE KID? WHAT DO YUH WANT, SONNY?
DON'T CALL ME SONNY. THIS CHUMP MADE THE SAME MISTAKE.
AN' I DON'T LIKE IT.
POW
OKAY, MISTER, I'M CONVINCED. HONEST MEN DON'T THROW LEAD THAT FAST. COME INSIDE.
THAT'S BETTER. I KNEW I WAS IN WITH RIGHT GUYS WHEN I SAW YUH.

MASKED RAIDER

WE NEED FAST GUNSLINGERS! HERE'S SOME DOUGH-- MORE COMIN' IF YUH THROW IN WITH US! ARE YUH IN?
WHY NOT! I NEED THE MONEY! WHO DO YUH WANT SHOT?

YOUNG BONNEY KNEW HE WAS IN DANGER! IF HE DIDN'T THROW IN WITH WARREN'S PLANS, HE'D NEVER LEAVE THE OUTLAW ROOST ALIVE! HE HAD TO PRETEND TO JOIN THEM OR ELSE...

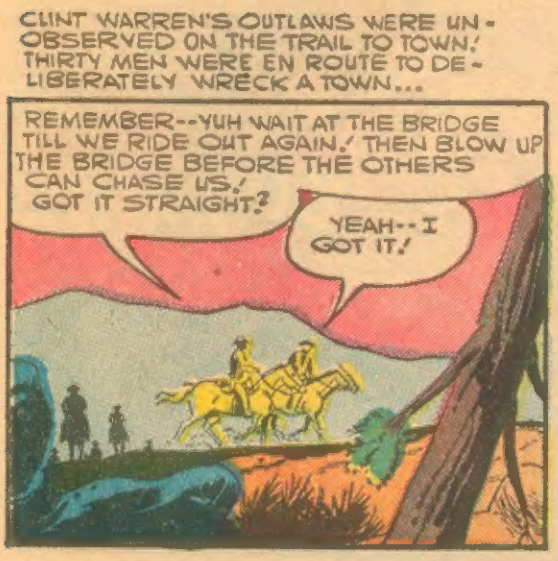
RAID BETTERTON? WHAT IS THIS-- A WAR?
NAH! IT'S OUR JOB TO ENCOURAGE SOME OF THEM TUH SELL OUT CHEAP! WHILE WE'RE DOIN' IT, WE CAN PICK UP ALL THE STRAY LOOT IN TOWN!

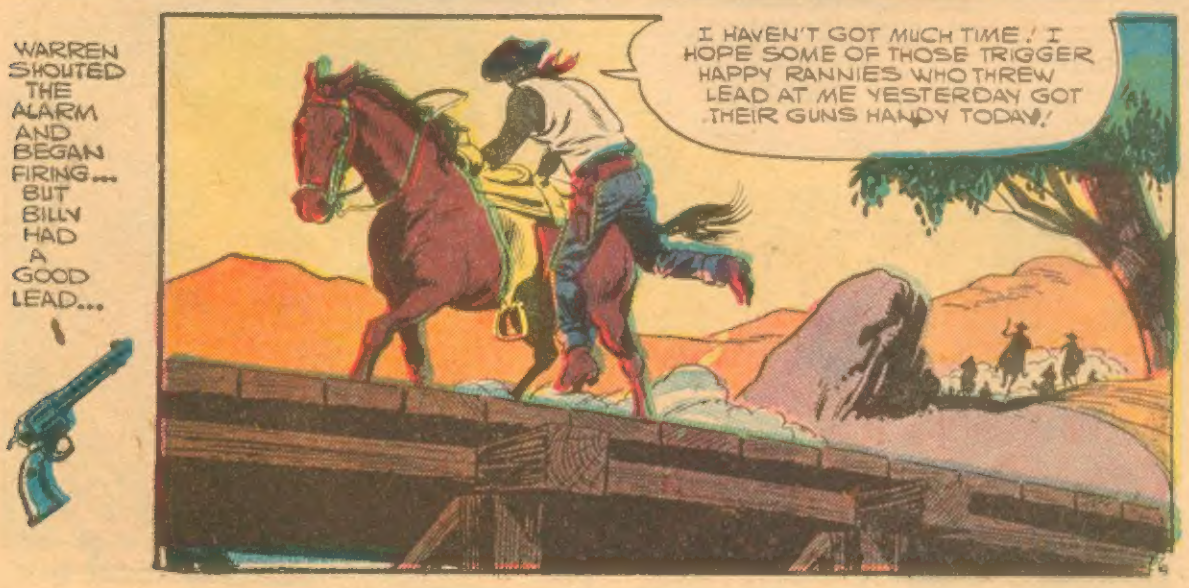
BILLY LOLLED AROUND ALL DAY! THE GANG WAS ITCHING FOR ACTION WHEN THEY ROLLED INTO THEIR BLANKETS THAT NIGHT...

WE WAITED FOR YORE SIGNAL! WHAT HAPPENED?
SOME FOOL KID RAISED A RUCKUS! IF YUH RODE IN THEN, YUH'D MEET HALF THE TOWN ARMED TUH THE TEETH!

MASKED RAIDER

THE WOODEN BRIDGE HAS TO BE BLOWN UP! YOU DO IT! ANOTHER THING -- YOU WON'T TRY A DOUBLE CROSS WITH THAT STUFF ON YORE SADDLE! A BULLET WOULD SHORE MAKE YUH HARD TO FIND!


CLINT WARREN'S OUTLAWS WERE UNOBSERVED ON THE TRAIL TO TOWN! THIRTY MEN WERE EN ROUTE TO DELIBERATELY WRECK A TOWN...
REMEMBER--YUH WAIT AT THE BRIDGE TILL WE RIDE OUT AGAIN! THEN BLOW UP THE BRIDGE BEFORE THE OTHERS CAN CHASE US! GOT IT STRAIGHT?
YEAH--I GOT IT!


WARREN SHOUTED THE ALARM AND BEGAN FIRING... BUT BILLY HAD A GOOD LEAD...
I HAVEN'T GOT MUCH TIME! I HOPE SOME OF THOSE TRIGGER HAPPY RANNIES WHO THREW LEAD AT ME YESTERDAY GOT THEIR GUNS HANDY TODAY!

MASKED RAIDER

I HOPE THIS IS A FAST FUSE! I'VE GOT TO HOLD 'EM OFF UNTIL I SEE IT'S READY TUH GO!
BONNEY'S IN TROUBLE!
IT'S THE GANG FROM THE ROOST!
GET BACK, MEN! IT'S GOIN' SKY HIGH IN A SECOND!
BOOM!
NICE WORK, BONNEY! WE CAUGHT THIS GALOOT RIDIN' OUT WITH OUR MONEY! I GOT SUSPICIOUS WHEN I LEARNED HE WAS BUYIN' UP ALL THE LAND THAT WAS FOR SALE AND FIGURED THAT MESSENGER WAS WORKIN' FOR HIM!
GOOD! WARREN AN' HIS GANG WILL TELL YUH THE DETAILS!
THEY'LL BE EASY TUH ROUND UP NOW THAT HUDKINS IS CAUGHT! HE'LL TALK PLENTY, I BET!
END

MASKED RAIDER

BILLY THE KID

in POOR BILLY

THE ROCK [illegible] OF THE [illegible] BOYISH LOOKING MAN WAS WILLIAM BONNEY [illegible]

HE'LL **REALLY** HURT ME IF YOU DON'T [illegible] MY...

HAW HAW! THIS KID IS TRYIN' TUH PUT UP A FIGHT.

WHEN BILLY REACHED THE NORTH-BOUND STAGE, HE FOUND ONLY ONE PASSENGER INSIDE. HE BLUSHED AS HE TIPPED HIS HAT AND INTRO-DUCED HIMSELF...

MORNIN', MISS. I'M WILLIAM BONNEY. I CAN BE OF SERVICE TO YOU IN ANY WAY. JUST SAY THE WORD.

I'M [illegible] YOU [illegible]

5 '54

MASKED RAIDER

I RECKON I CAN PUT IT IN MY DUSTY BAG. I'D BEST KEEP IT HANDY THOUGH--THE DRIVER SAID WE'RE CARRYIN' A FORTUNE IN GOLD.
Y-YOU MEAN WE MIGHT BE HELD UP? I DON'T E ANYTHING LIKE THAT HAPPENED.
THEN THE STAGE RUMBLES ON--AND AROUND A HILL...
PULL UP! THIS IS A HOLD-UP.
WHOA.
THE GUARD WAS HIT WITH A .45 SLUG BEFORE HE COULD STOP THE ATTACKERS.
DOGGONE IT, WHERE'S THAT GUN?
GET DOWN ON THE FLOOR, MISS MARY... HEY. DON'T FAINT NOW.

MASKED RAIDER

YUH WON'T NEED THE GUN, SONNY. JUST TAKE CARE OF YOR'E AUNT.
SHE'S NOT MY AUNT AN DON'T CALL ME SONNY.
I'LL CALL YUH WORSE N THAT F YUH DON'T PIPE DOWN.
I'M GETTN RILED...
... AN WHEN I GET RILED I GET FOLKS KNOW ABOUT IT.
LET GO, MISS MARY.
I'LL GET 'M DOWN.
ARE YOU HURT, MR. BONNEY? YOU SHOULDN'T TRY TO FIGHT BIG BRUTES LIKE THEM.
I FEEL A LOT BETTER NOW, MISS MARY.
THAT'S ENOUGH OF THE HEARTS AND FLOWERS ROUTINE. GET ON ONE OF THE HORSES. WE'RE TAKN YUH AN THE GIRL WITH US.

MASKED RAIDER

THE OUT-LAWS HAD A HIDE-OUT NOT FAR AWAY.' THEY HAD TO OPEN THE STRONG BOX AND SPLIT THE GOLD BEFORE THEY WENT ANY-WHERE...

TRY THAT AGAIN AN' I'LL FINISH YUH.' YUH WON'T GET THE CHANCE AGAIN--ME AN' MY BUDDIES ARE PULLIN' OUT.'
YUH WON'T GET FAR, MISTER.' I'LL BE ON YORE TRAIL.'

100 TOY SOLDIERS, MADE OF DURABLE PLASTIC, EACH ON ITS OWN BASE, MEASURING UP TO 4½"!

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NO C.O.D.'s

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Rush the TOY SOLDIERS TO ME!

Name .....

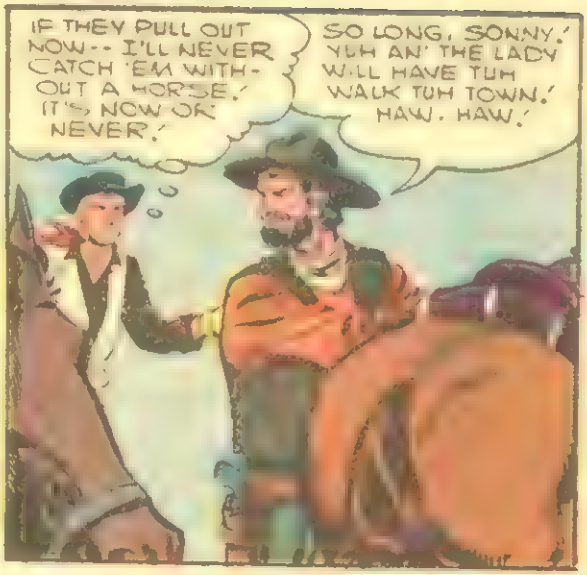
Address .....

City ..... State .....

Canada and foreign orders send $1.50 [illegible] money order.

MASKED RAIDER

BUT DON'T HAVE A CHANCE TO MAKE A MOVE. EVERYWHERE HE MOVED, THE GIRL WENT THERE TOO. TRY. TRY TO HELP...


IF THEY PULL OUT NOW -- I'LL NEVER CATCH 'EM WITHOUT A HORSE. IT'S NOW OR NEVER.
SO LONG, SONNY. YUH AN' THE LADY WILL HAVE TUH WALK TUH TOWN. HAW. HAW.

YOU OUGHT TO BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF. HE'S HURT. THE POOR FELLOW.
I GIVE UP. I'M GLAD YOU WON'T BE HELPING ANYMORE. WITH A FRIEND LIKE YOU, I DON T NEED ENEMIES. I BETTER TAKE THESE HOMBRES IN.
END

THE REAL TWO GUN SMITH

The man sitting alone at the table was clean-shaven and probably not older than thirty-two or three. His chestnut brown hair was clipped close to the scalp. You would say he was about six feet two. He was enjoying his breakfast. Yet at the same time he was well aware that the two men at the adjacent table were eyeing him carefully.

"That's the kind of man we want," remarked Mayor Philip Shinder. "I don't think we'll have to travel to St. Louis."

"The sooner we get back home, the better" replied Edward Moran, editor of the weekly Mortontown News. "I don't like the idea of my daughter Helen being alone. I know she is capable of handling a gun, but you never can tell what Bill Jessup and his gang will do."

The man at the table arose and walked to the adjacent table. He faced the two men and spoke.

"I enjoyed my bacon and eggs. The coffee was fair, but I don't think I enjoyed you two giving me the up and down. Am I wanted for something? Or perhaps I look like an old friend. Which is it?"

"Neither," replied the editor. "Permit me to make the introductions. My friend is Mayor Philip Shinder of Mortontown. I am the editor of a struggling newspaper in the same place. We are both headed for St. Louis. Our object is to find a good law man who can get rid of a gang that is slowly but firmly taking over our town. He will be the town marshal and be given a free hand. In addition we have a large sum of money to give him as his salary."

"My name is Albert Smith," declared the man. "I'm here on some business. Too bad I'm not the man you want."

"Smith," smiled the Mayor. "A good honest name. You find a lot of Smiths in this country. Now if you were two gun Smith, the famous U.S. Marshal, that would be something. With his long hair, dropping mustache, he does make quite a dashing figure. I understand from the papers he is in Mexico at present. Seems the government down there sort of temporarily borrowed him to head an expedition in Sonora against Pedro Martiz, the bandit."

"Smith," echoed the editor. "If you wore two guns, you would really be a two gun Smith. With a thousand dollars a month for salary and you could save every penny of it. Room and board and a good horse all provided."

Albert Smith opened his mouth to say something. He hesitated and finally spoke.

"Is this some kind of a joke? Give me two months salary in advance and you have yourself a law man. I never heard of so much money being paid by any place in this country. Beats anything in Dodge City or Abilene."

Five hours later the three men were in a stage headed back to Mortontown. The editor was giving the town's new marshal the background of Bill Jessup and his gang.

"We aren't far from Chief Long Feathers and his tribe. They say his braves have made raids deep into Texas. We sort of pay Bill Jessup what can best be called insurance to protect up from a raid. We don't know how he does it, but we have no trouble with the redskins."

"Slowly Bill Jessup and his gang have been trying to take things over in the town," interrupted the editor. "They have even tried to tell me what to print."

"All you have to do is notify the federal authorities," said Albert Smith. "You can get troops from Fort Henderson to protect you."

"His men keep an eye on everybody entering and leaving town," said the Mayor. "We skipped out on a dark night and met the stage thirty miles out of town."

The trip to Mortontown took five days. It was uneventful and the stage finally pulled into its destination. Mike Devis, the driver, stopped in front of the office of the newspaper. Helen Moran was on hand to greet her father.

"Did you bring me the list of things I gave you from St. Louis," she demanded.

"Never got there," replied Edward Moran.

"But you brought something else back," said a heavy voice owned by a husky man who wore

a close cropped black beard. "A law man to give us a lesson. We let the stage come through. Tell him to get out so we can tell him what to do."

There was silence when Bill Jessup had finished speaking. Albert Smith heard the words. He walked out of the stage and started to walk along Main Street.

"You haven't my permission to come and visit this town," said Bill Jessup.

"You haven't my permission to remain here," snapped back the new marshal. "First thing wrong you do and you land behind bars. Don't try to go for your guns. That applies to you and your two cronies. My name is Two Gun Smith.

Sometimes we have only a fraction of a second in which to make a decision. What we do will affect our well-being as well as the happiness of others. Bill Jessup wanted to continue living.

"Just kidding," he said with a forced smile. "With a famous law man like you around, I'm certain there won't be any trouble."

The group of people who heard the conversation passed it on to others. The reign of Bill Jessup had come to an end. That was what the town felt. However in the backroom of the Happy Casino, Bill Jessup sat at a table with his men.

"Do we stay here or leave?" asked Lee Quirk. "They say he is faster than lightning with his guns. Got a hankering to contine breathing fresh air."

"Next Monday we make our collection as usual," announced Bill Jessup. "Six of us to one of him. We stay."

For two days, Albert Smith vanished from town. Then he reappeared. He spent most of his time in the afternoon at the newspaper office. Definitely he was interested in Helen, but she found out she had to do most of the speaking.

"You certainly are the quietest man I ever met," she admitted. "However I know you can speak."

"Let's visit the Happy Casino tonight," he suggested. "I'm sure things will not be dull."

All that day, Bill Jessup and his men made their "collections." The marshal made no step to interfere. At night they were all in the Happy Casino. The last to pay was Dave Garfield, owner of the establishment. He placed a small bag of silver dollars on the bar.

"That money is for the Indians?" asked Albert Smith.

"It is," said Bill Jessup.

"Then they get it," snapped back the law man.

As though waiting for those words, the door opened, and a group of indians, headed by Chief Long Feather entered.

"Now give the chief the money you collected. All of this and every cent you got in the past."

Bill Jessup and his men noticed the redskins were all armed with the latest model Winchesters. He handed the money to the Chief.

"You have forty-eight hours to get the balance of the money," threatened Albert Smith. "Otherwise I arrest you and your men for fraud."

Chief Long Feather held up his hands as a sign he wanted to talk. There was quiet.

"We are peaceful with those who keep peace with us," said the indian. "We need no bribery nor gift. This money I give back to all of you."

The money was returned. The entire gesture had been most effective. Three of Bill Jessup's men vanished. They mounted their horses and headed for what can best be called a "healthier climate."

Lee Quirk remained. He had something to show his boss. A picture and a news clipping.

"That faker," snarled Bill Jessup. "This calls for a show down. I can handle myself. You and Sam stay around for the fun."

The news spread somehow that Bill Jessup was going after the law man.

"I am going to kill you," announced Bill Jessup. "I can outshoot you."

"I shall have to arrest you for making a threat," retorted the law man. "Give up now without going for your gun."

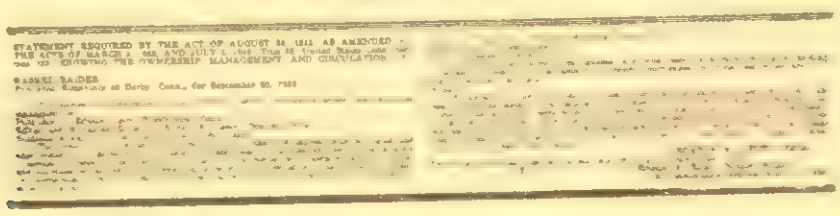
Bill Jessup went for his gun. Before his hand reached the holster, three shots from Albert Smith's gun had shot the entire gun belt off the man. Then he arrested a scared prisoner.

"You could have killed me and didn't," whined Bill Jessup.

"Who are you really?"

"Two Gun Smith," interrupted the voice of Helen. "He merely returned early from Mexico. Seems Pedro Martiz, the bandit, fell from a mule and was killed. So my future husband wanted a peaceful vacation. Cut his hair and removed his mustache. That's the way he will continue to look."

The End



MASKED RAIDER

BILLY THE KID

in SIX-GUN PROTEGE

FRESH FROM THE EAST AND RIGHT INTO THE MIDDLE OF THE LINCOLN COUNTY CATTLE WAR STANDS [illegible] OF JOHN LANNEN, TOO GREEN TO KNOW WHOM TO FEAR. HE ALMOST GETS A TASTE OF LEAD POISONING A HALF HOUR AFTER HE ARRIVES! THEN HE MEETS WILLIAM BONNEY, BETTER KNOWN AS BILLY THE KID AND HE LEARNED THE ART OF STAYING ALIVE IN A LAND WHERE THAT WASN'T EASY!

[illegible] ARIZONA STYLE. [illegible]

STAY OUT OF THIS, BONNEY. THIS IS MY FIGHT!

SORRY, KID. YUH CAN HAVE 'IM NEXT TIME.' IF HE GRABS IRON NOW, I'LL PUT SOME NEW BUTTON HOLES IN HIS SHIRT.'

ONLY TWO HOURS BEFORE THAT, JOHN LANNEN HAD STEPPED OFF THE DAILY TRAIN...

MASKED RAIDER

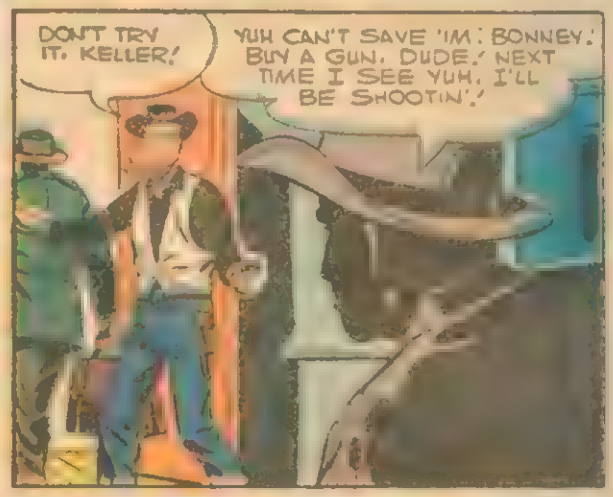
ER, YOUNG FELLOW, CAN YOU DIRECT ME TO DIGGER CANE? A GENTLEMAN TOLD ME HE COULD BED ME DOWN
I RECKON HE COULD BUT HE WOULDN'T LIKE IT! HE'S TAKIN' CARE OF BOOT HILL THE CEMETERY!

AN' DON'T CALL ME YOUNG FELLOW! I'M A MITE TOUCHY ABOUT THAT! YUH CAN GET A [illegible] ANY TROUBLE ASK FOR ME, BILL BONNEY!
THANK YOU! WELL, MR. BONNEY! SAY AREN'T YOU...

THE BORDER TOUGHS KNEW OF BILLY THE KID'S SIX-GUN MAGIC AN' FEW DARED TO BUCK HIM... BUT MEN LIKE BRAZ KELLER ACHED TO TRY...

I DUNNO WHAT THAT MEANS, DUDE. BUT I DON'T LIKE IT! ADDED TUH THAT. I DON'T WANT YUH IN HERE! DRAG YORE SELF OUTA HERE!
DON'T BULLY ME, MISTER! I'M NOT AFRAID OF LOUDMOUTHS!

MASKED RAIDER



HE CAN'T DO THAT, CAN HE? WHAT ABOUT THE SHERIFF?
OUT HERE, JOHN. THAT'S KIND OF A LAW! A CUSTOM, YUH'D CALL IT! YUH EITHER FACE HIM WITH A GUN OR DUST OUTA TOWN! RUN FOR IT!

BILLY THE KID WATCHED LANNEN CLOSELY. HE FELT SORRY FOR HIM BUT HE WANTED NO COWARD FOR A FRIEND. LANNEN THOUGHT FOR A WHILE. THEN...
SO LONG, LANNEN! BETTER LUCK IN THE NEXT TOWN YUH HIT!

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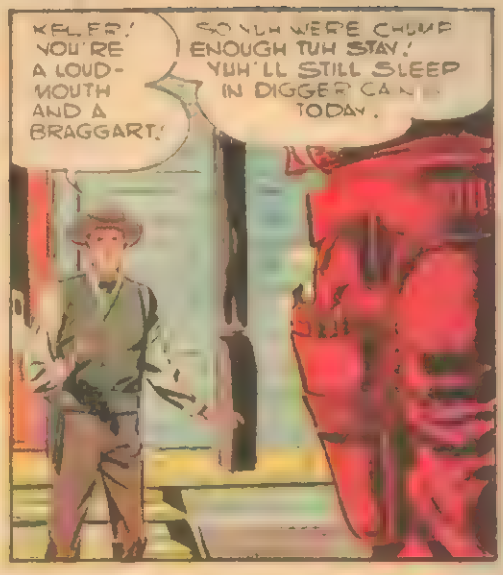
[illegible]

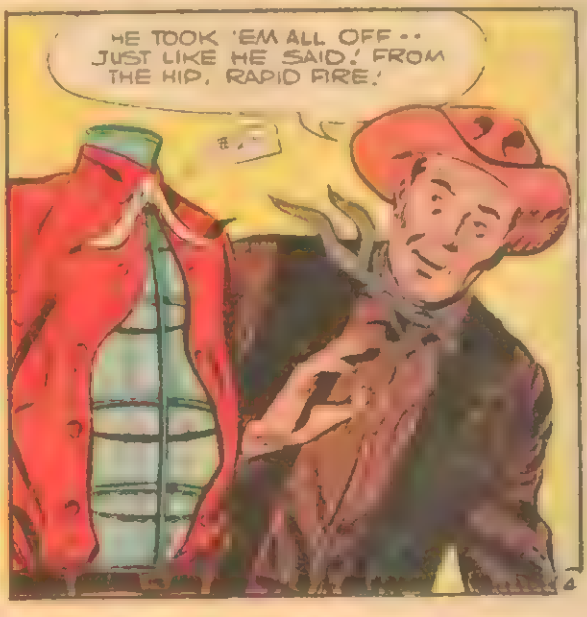
Name _____

Address _____

MASKED RAIDER

WORD OF THE MOUNTAIN MAN'S DEATH SPREAD FAST. EVERYONE KNEW KELLER WASN'T LIKED NO ONE THOUGHT OF INTERFERING...





MASKED RAIDER

HE'S SELLA LANNEN. COME ON DOE OUT WITH ME TUH THE LINE CAMP AN' I'LL SHOW YUH HOW TUH HANDLE A SHOOTIN' IRON!
I...I GUESS YOU'D BETTER! I SURE WON'T LAST LONG IF YOU DON'T!
AFTER A STOP AT THE HARDWARE STORE FOR MORE SHELLS, BILLY AND HIS PROTEGE ROLE OUT. THE KID WAS WORKING AS A LINE RIDER THEN.
YOU WORK OUT HERE ALONE, BILLY? IT MUST GET LONESOME!
I KEEP BUSY -- PRACTICING WITH MY SIX-SHOOTER MOSTLY!
BILLY THE KID STARTED THE LESSONS THAT SAME DAY...
REMEMBER A GUN IS EITHER A DANGEROUS LIABILITY OR A NECESSARY ASSET IN A TIME OF DANGER...
... IT MUST BE USED ONLY AS AN ABSOLUTE LAST RESORT AND ALWAYS WITH ACCURACY AND JUDGEMENT! AIM TO DISARM WHENEVER YOU POSSIBLY CAN!
IF YOU HEAR SOMEONE CALL YOUR NAME -- COME AROUND FAST! CHANCES ARE HE'S GOT A GUN AIMED RIGHT AT YOUR BRISKET!
WHAM!
JOHN LANNEN BURNED UP THOUSANDS OF SHELLS, LEARNING THE ART FROM THE MASTER. AFTER A MONTH AND A HALF, BILLY CALLED A HALT...
I TAUGHT YUH ALL YUH CAN LEARN, JOHN! FROM NOW ON, IT'S UP TO YOU!
I'LL REMEMBER WHAT YOU TOLD ME, BILLY!

MASKED RAIDER

BUT BILLY HAD OTHER THINGS TO DO BESIDES TRAILING A TWELVE-MAN OUTFIT HOW TO BE A SHERIFF WHILE CATTLE MISSING...
IT'S JUST THE ASHES OF A FIRE. WON'T TELL YOU ALL-THING
IT TELLS ME HOW MANY THERE WERE AND THERE IS A PRINT IN THE ASHES OF THE BRANDING IRON THEY USED... WE'LL FIND OUR CRAFT WEARING A CIRCLE R BRAND IF I'M RIGHT.
PING!
GET DOWN, YOU IDIOT! I'LL HANDLE THESE TINHORNS!
I'M IN IT WITH YOU, BILLY! ALL THE WAY!
THE THIRD RUSTLER GOT AWAY! BILL BONNEY AND JOHN LANNEN PACKED THE TWO WOUNDED MEN TO A DOCTOR IN TOWN...
HELLO, BILLY! I SEE YOUR PROTEGE IS STILL ALIVE AND KICKIN'!
YEP--GOT A GOOD CHANCE TUH STAY THAT WAY TOO! SEE FRITZ KELLER AROUND?
K...ER, I KNOW YOU RE IN THERE! COME OUT, YOU RUSTLIN' TINHORN!
YUH TELL 'EM, JOHN! JUST REMEMBER.. YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN!

MASKED RAIDER

THE TENDERFOOT'S SUDDEN CLEAR CHALLENGE STOPPED ALL MOVEMENT IN TOWN. THEY WAITED FOR THE NOTORIOUS GUNSLINGER TO ACCEPT OR CRAWL...
W-WHO'S WITH YUH? WHAT KIND OF PLAY IS THIS, DUDE? I DON'T WANT TROUBLE.
YOU'VE GOT IT ANYWAY! I CALLED YOU A RUSTLIN' TINHORN. ARE YOU GOING TO FIGHT OR CRAWL?
PULL THE GUN OR TAKE A LICKING, KELLER. I'M COMING FOR YOU!
LISTEN, THIS IS CRAZY! WAIT A MINUTE!
STARING AT THE GUNSLINGER THE TENDERFOOT KEPT COMING, AND KELLER COULDN'T DRAW IN TIME...
DON'T TRY TO BLUFF... UNGH!
I'M NOT BLUFFING KELLER!
HE'S A LOT DIFFERENT SINCE YOU SHOWED HIM HOW TO USE THE SIX GUNS. TELL ME, BILLY, IS HE AS GOOD AS FOLKS SAY?
HE TAKES AN HOUR TO GET HIS COLT INTUH ACTION, WHEN HE DOES, HE CAN'T HIT NOTHIN'. BUT HE'S GOT CONFIDENCE NOW--AN' I TOLD 'IM TUH USE A SHOTGUN IN CASE HE HAS TUH DO ANY REAL SHOOTIN'. HE'LL BE OKAY NOW.
END

MASKED RAIDER

And TALON the Golden Eagle

WHEN LES WILCOX, THE MILD MANNERED LAWYER OF BOULDER CITY PRESENTED [illegible] A GIFT TO FRED MARTIN, HE DID NOT SUSPECT THAT THE HOURS OF FRED'S LIFE WERE NUMBERED / THE GRIM TRAGEDY [illegible] THE SECRET LAWYER BUT NOT SECRET LONG AS THE MASKED RAIDER, HE WAS ABLE TO MEET [illegible] WITH [illegible] AND JUSTICE /

THE GOLD WATCH!

[illegible] S. WILCOX SEEMED LIKE THE [illegible] SUITED FOR PRESENTING THE GIFT OF APPRECIATION TO [illegible] MARTIN--

[illegible] OF THIS COUNTY ARE HAPPY TO PRESENT YOU WITH A THOUSAND DOLLARS AND THIS GOLD WATCH AS [illegible] RECOGNITION OF YOUR WORK!

I'M SORRY I'VE OVERCOME, LES!

BECAUSE OF THE [illegible] OF THE HOUR, THE CITIZENS' COMMITTEE THAT I ORGANIZED WON'T STOP, EITHER, TILL THIS COUNTY IS SWEPT CLEAN OF LAWLESSNESS!

HAVING USED THE MEN YOU TRAINED AS DEPUTIES, THE SHERIFFS ABOUT HERE HAVE GONE A LONG WAY IN MAKING THIS COUNTY [illegible] AN ABIDING

MASKED RAIDER

THERE WERE BANQUETS AND SPEECHES. AT LAST---

I RECKON THIS OUGHT TO SHOW YOU HOW WE FEEL ABOUT YUH, FRED!

THANKS, MR. DAWSON! AND I'LL SAY THIS! ONLY THE MYSTERY OF THE DISAPPEARING CATTLE IN THESE PARTS HASN'T BEEN SOLVED YET! THAT'S THE NEXT BUSINESS THE DEPUTIZED CITIZENS WILL WORK ON!

IT WAS LATE AT NIGHT WHEN FRED MARTIN TOOK THE TRIP HOMEWARD. HIS HEART WAS LIGHT AND HE DID NOT SEE THE MOVING SHADOWS IN THE DARKNESS BEHIND THE ROCK---

HERE HE COMES! I GOT 'IM IN MY SIGHTS!

WAIT -- WE ALL FIRE AT ONCE! THE BOSS WANTS NO MISTAKES ON THIS JOB!

KRAKK!

NOW LET'S GIT OUT OF HERE!

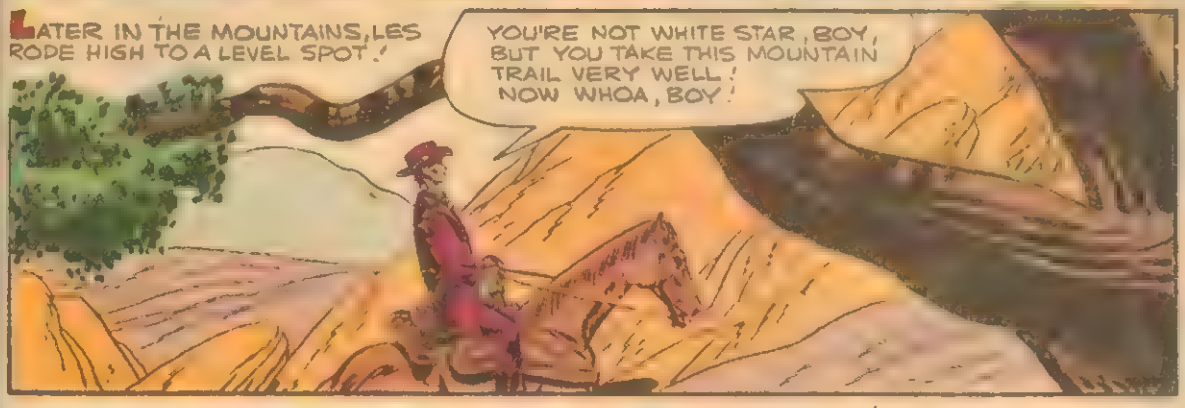
SOME WEEKS LATER---

WAL, WHAT ARE YUH GOING TO DO? JUST SIT THERE AND LET FRED MARTIN'S KILLERS GET AWAY?

WHAT CAN I DO? I'M A LAWYER! I CAN'T VERY WELL DO ANYTHING LEGAL TO FIND THEM!

MASKED RAIDER

OH, LES, I JUST CAME BY TO SEE IF YOU'D COME FOR SUPPER TONIGHT!
NO, THANKS, POLLY! I'LL HAVE TO MISS IT! I WANT TO GO OUT AND SORT OF THINK OVER SOME THINGS. HOPE YOU DON'T THINK I'M RUDE!


LATER IN THE MOUNTAINS, LES RODE HIGH TO A LEVEL SPOT.!
YOU'RE NOT WHITE STAR, BOY, BUT YOU TAKE THIS MOUNTAIN TRAIL VERY WELL! NOW WHOA, BOY!

LES HAD COME UP EVERY DAY SINCE THE MURDER! IT HAD BEEN A USELESS JOURNEY----
I HAVE SOMETHING! THIS COULD BE THE ANSWER! THIS IS NOT BRANDING SEASON!

MASKED RAIDER

A FEW MINUTES LATER...
LOOKS MIGHTY LIKE YOU'RE CHANGING A BRAND, MR. DAWSON!
THIS HERE'S A MAVERICK-- ANYBODY'S PROPERTY! WHAT WOULD A LAWYER KNOW ABOUT THAT?
I KNOW ENOUGH TO CALL YOU A LIAR, DAWSON! ENOUGH TO REPORT YOU TO THE CITIZENS COMMITTEE
GO PLUNT AHEAD I'LL MAKE A FOOL OF YOU!
I'LL TAKE THAT CHANCE! AS SOON AS I REACH TOWN I'LL REPORT YOU
WHAT NOW, BOSS! SHALL I LET 'IM HAVE A SLUG!
NOT HERE! WE'LL OVERTAKE HIM ON THE OL' MOUNTAIN TRAIL! BUT HE'LL NEVER REACH TOWN, THAT'S CERTAIN!
I HAVE A HUNCH DAWSON WILL BE ALONG SOON. I CERTAINLY DON'T WANT TO DISAPPOINT HIM!
AND I'LL RELIEVE YOU OF THE SADDLE, OLD BOY! YOU JUST GRAZE HERE AND ENJOY YOURSELF!

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MASKED RAIDER

I THOUGHT I'D FIND YOU HERE TALON! NOW WHERE HAVE YOU LEFT WHITE STAR?
RIGHT ON HAND, WHITE STAR! WELL, BOY, WE HAVE PLENTY TO DO!
A FEW MOMENTS LATER LES BECAME THE MASKED RAIDER.
TALON HAS LOCATED THEM ALREADY, WHITE STAR! THEY DIDN'T LOSE MUCH TIME GETTING ON THE TRAIL!
COME ON, WHITE STAR! WE HAVE WORK TO DO!
MEANWHILE---
LOOK! THERE'S WILCOX'S HORSE! UNSADDLED, TOO! HE WON'T GIT AWAY!
SHUT UP! THERE'S WILCOX HIMSELF! DOZIN' AGAINST THE ROCK
WAL, HERE'S THE END 'O' THE MEDDLESOME LAWYER!
KRAK!

MASKED RAIDER

WITH BODY LITHE AND TIGHT AS STEEL, THE MASKED RAIDER WENT INTO ACTION!

I GUESS YOU CAN EXPLAIN WEARING FRED MARTIN'S GOLD WATCH AND CHAIN!
ONE OF MY MEN GAVE IT TO ME! I DUNNO ANYTHING ABOUT IT!
THAT'S A LIE! HE HIRED US TUH -- UH--

LATER--
WE GOT A COMPLETE CONFESSION! DAWSON ORDERED THE MURDER! TOOK THE WATCH AND MONEY TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE THEFT! REALLY WANTED FRED OUT OF THE WAY!
SOME DAY WE'LL KNOW WHO THE MASKED RAIDER REALLY IS! DON'T YOU THINK SO, LES?
UH -- OH, SURE, SURE!

END

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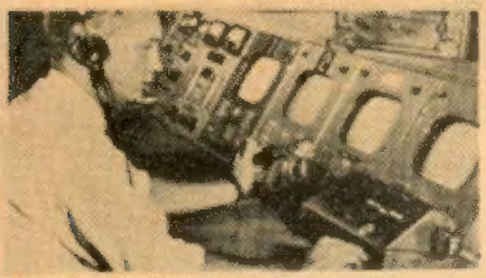

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